

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140913

FOR TICE FROM FORBES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, US

SUBJECT:LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JUNE 16 H LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

1. STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL. AS EXPECTED, THE BILL PROVIDED A CONVENIENT VEHICLE FOR MAJOR CONFRONTATIONS OVER SEVERAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES. KOREA, CUBA AND VIET-NAM WERE THE FOCUS OF EFFORTS TO SIGNAL DISAFFECTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S INITIATIVES OR TO REITERATE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS.

2. AS REPORTED OUT OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, THE AUTHORIZATION BILL CONTAINED A MCGOVERN PROVISION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA. SENATOR BAKER SUBMITTED AN AMENDMENT TO DELETE THIS SECTION, ARGUING THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION WAS NOT WELL CONSIDERED

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AND URGING THE CONGRESS TO EXAMINE IT CAREFULLY. SENATOR ROBERT BYRD, SENSING THE CONCERN OVER THE NEED TO MAINTAIN STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, ACTED PRE-EMPTIVELY TO REQUIRE CLOSE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS

AND AN ANNUAL REPORT CONCERNING THE SECURITY CONDITIONS. BYRD WAS CHALLENGED BY DOLE AND BAKER BECAUSE HIS AMEND-

MENT CONTINUED TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY. BECAUSE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR BAKER TO MOVE TO DELETE; THEREFORE, DOLE MOVED TO RECOMMIT THE BILL AND ANNOUNCED THAT THIS, IN EFFECT, WOULD BE A VOTE ON THE BAKER MOVE TO DELETE. THE MOTION WAS DEFEATED BY A 68-26 VOTE. A VOTE THEN TOOK PLACE ON THE BYRD AMENDMENT AS MODIFIED AND BYRD PREVAILED 79-15. THE LANGUAGE ADOPTED STATED THAT US POLICY TOWARD KOREA SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ARRIVED AT BY JOINT DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS. IT REITERATED THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE CONGRESS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY WAS NOT REPUDIATED, BUT NEITHER WAS IT ENDORSED. CONSIDERING THE CONFUSION OVER THE GENESIS OF THE POLICY AND THE INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES WHICH SUPPORT IT, THE OUTCOME IS A GOOD ONE.

3. CUBA. THE SENATE TODAY ADOPTED A SENSE-OF-THE-CONGRESS RESOLUTION ON CUBA BY A VOTE OF 54-37. THE AMENDMENT CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED ON A DELIBERATE AND RECIPROCAL BASIS RESPECTING THE BASIC RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF US CITIZENS AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CUBAN POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN AFRICA. IT ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT CUBAN DISRESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN ADDITIONAL ELEMENT TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE AMENDMENT IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR A DOLE AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE ESTABLISHED STRICT PRE-CONDITIONS TO BE MET BY THE CUBANS PRIOR TO ANY

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NEGOTIATIONS.

4. AWACS FOR IRAN. THE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION ON AWACS WAS DELIVERED TO CONGRESS EARLY THIS AFTERNOON. THE HAMILTON SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HIRC REACTED IMMEDIATELY BY TELLING US TO PLAN FOR HEARINGS BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH. ACCORDING TO STEVE BRYAN, THE MIDDLE EAST SUBCOMMITTEE IN THE SFRC IS NOT EQUALLY CONCERNED.

CHRISTOPHER

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Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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